

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LIBREV 01130 141044Z

20

ACTION XMB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SPC-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10 RSC-01

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 OPIC-12 LAB-06 SIL-01

L-03 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01 /151 W

----- 130904

R 140700Z 73

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5079

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIBREVILLE 1130

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, GB

SUBJ: EXIM FINANCING FOR LOCKHEED L-100 AIRCRAFT

REF: (A) STATE 241914; (B) STATE 200605

1. EMBASSY PERPLEXED BY REFTEL (A).

2. LETTER FROM MOUKAMBI (RECEIVED NOV 29) WAS BASED ON EXPLANATIONS GIVEN TO GOG BY LOCKHEED REP BEAVERS WHO CAME TO LIBREVILLE AND TOLD GOG AND EMBASSY THAT LETTER STATING GENERAL PURPOSE OF AIRCRAFT AND FACT AIRCRAFT BEING BOUGHT FOR CIVILIAN AND NOT RPT NOT MILITARY USE WAS SUFFICIENT. BEAVERS CITED NUMEROUS CASES WHERE LOCKHEED HAD SOLD AIRCRAFT TO OTHER COUNTRIES (E.G. ZAIRE AND COLOMBIA) WHERE SUCH GENERAL ASSURANCES SATISFACTORY. ASSUMING BEAVERS KNOWLEDGEABLE AND RESPONSIBLE, AMBASSADOR RELAYED THESE ASSURANCES TO FINANCE MINISTER MOUKAMBI. THERE WAS NOTHING IN REFTEL (B) WHICH WOULD LEAD ONE TO BELIEVE OTHERWISE.

3. DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY "CERTIFICATE" NOW NECESSARY (REFTEL A) WHEN REFTEL (B) STATED LETTER OF APPLICATION
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LIBREV 01130 141044Z

SUFFICIENT."

4. REGARDING PROPOSED CIVILIAN USE OF AIRCRAFT, ASSUME INFO PROVIDED BY LOCKHEED SUFFICIENT SINCE THERE IS NO INTENTION OF USING AIRCRAFT ON "SCHEDULED" ROUTES.

5. MAIN PROBLEM WOULD SEEM TO BE NEW REQUIREMENT THAT GOG STATE "AIRCRAFT WILL NOT BE USED FOR OFFENSIVE OR DEFENSIVE PURPOSES." GOG AND EMBASSY HAVE LONG BEEN AWARE THAT EXIM PRECLUDED BY LAW FROM FINANCING MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. CERTAINLY INTENT OF GOG IS TO USE AIRCRAFT FOR CIVILIAN PURPOSE. ON OTHER HAND TO REQUIRE SOVEREIGN COUNTRY TO PLEDGE THAT AIRCRAFT WOULD NEVER BE USED FOR DEFENSIVE MILITARY PURPOSES SEEMS UNREALISTIC IN THE EXTREME. FROM THE TAXIS OF THE MARNE THROUGH THE BRITISH FISHING VESSELS WHICH EVACUATED ENCIRCLED BRITISH TROOPS AT DUNKIRK, TO SAY NOTHING OF FACT OUR OWN CIVILIAN PLANES ARE PROGRAMMED AS TROOP TRANSPORTS IN EMERGENCIES, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT ANY COUNTRY WILL USE ANY VEHICLE AT ITS DISPOSAL TO PROTECT ITSELF IN THE FACE OF THREAT TO ITS NATIONAL SECURITY.

6. ACCORDING TO BEAVERS THIS WAS WELL UNDERSTOOD AND ACCEPTED FACT IN DELIVERY OF HERCULES PLANES TO OTHER COUNTRIES. HE CITED EXAMPLE OF COLOMBIA WHERE PLANES WERE OPERATED AND MAINTAINED BY COLOMBIAN MILITARY EVEN THOUGH USED FOR CIVILIAN PURPOSES.

7. DO NOT UNDERSTAND THEREFORE (A) WHY WE INSIST ON WORDS "DEFENSIVE MILITARY PURPOSES" WHICH PATENTLY UNREALISTIC, AND (B) WHY WE NOW REQUIRE "CERTIFICATE" WHEN REF (B) STATED THAT LETTER WAS "SUFFICIENT."

8. FOR AMBASSADOR TO "EXPLAIN" THAT NEW DOCUMENT REQUIRED WILL NECESSITATE HIS CONTRADICTING HIS EARLIER ASSURANCES MADE IN GOOD FAITH AND ON GOOD AUTHORITY AND CERTAINLY DELAY, IRRITATE AND CONFUSE GABONESE.

9. IF PROBLEM IS MERELY A TECHNICAL ONE, AMBASSADOR RELUCTANTLY PREPARED TO INFORM GABONESE THAT A "CERTIFICATE" LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 LIBREV 01130 141044Z

REPEATING ESSENCE OF MOUKAMBI LETTER WILL HAVE TO BE SIGNED AS FORMALITY TO MEET EXIM REGULATIONS. AMBASSADOR CAN ADD, IF CONSIDERED ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY, THAT CERTIFICATE SHOULD INCLUDE WORDS (PROVIDED BY LOCKHEED REP) THAT "FLIGHTS WILL CARRY CONSTRUCTION CREWS, ADVISORS, AND EQUIPMENT INTO INTERIOR UNDER GENERAL JURISDICTION OF MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS" AND ALSO WORDS TO EFFECT

"ESSENTIAL PURPOSE OF PLANE IS FOR CIVILIAN AND NOT
MILITARY USE." DO NOT HOWEVER SEE HOW WE CAN INSIST
ON UNREALISTIC AND CATEGORICAL STATEMENT THAT "AIRCRAFT
WILL NOT BE USED FOR OFFENSIVE OR DEFENSIVE MILITARY
PURPOSES" EVEN THOUGH THIS IS CLEARLY NOT THE INTENT
OF PURCHASE.
MCKESSON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRCRAFT SALES, BANK LOANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973LIBREV01130
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: LIBREVILLE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731254/aaaakaic.tel
Line Count: 126
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION XMB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 STATE 241914, 73 STATE 200605
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09-Jan-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <28-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980316
Subject: EXIM FINANCING FOR LOCKHEED L-100 AIRCRAFT
TAGS: EGEN, GB, XMB
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005